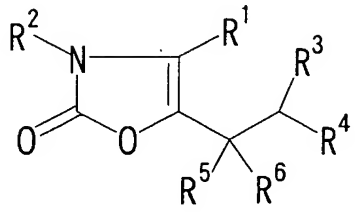
CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a compound represented by the formula

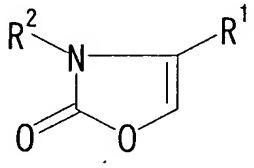


wherein

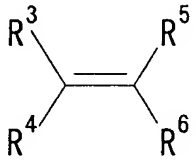
R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R^3 is an electron-withdrawing group, and

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, in the presence of an acid or a base.

2. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted

alkyl group, an optionally substituted aralkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group.

3. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

4. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted phenyl group.

5. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

6. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group.

7. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom.

8. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^3 is -CN, $-COOR^7$ (R^7 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-COR^8$ (R^8 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group).

9. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^3 is -CN.

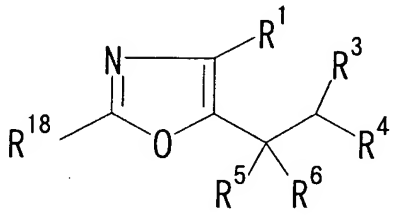
10. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^3 is $-COOR^7$ (R^7 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group).

11. The production method of claim 1, wherein R^3 is $-COR^8$ (R^8 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl

group or an optionally substituted aryl group).

12. The production method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of an acid.

13. A method of producing a compound represented by the formula



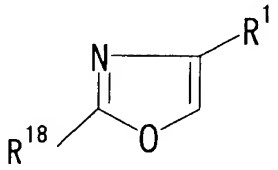
wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

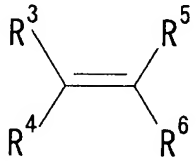
R^3 is an electron-withdrawing group,

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, and

R^{18} is an optionally substituted amino group, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula

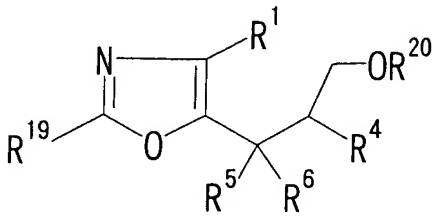


wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, in the presence of an acid.

14. A method of producing a compound represented by the formula



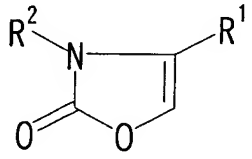
wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

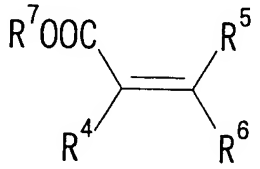
R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^{19} is an optionally substituted heterocyclic group containing nitrogen, which is bonded via a nitrogen atom, and

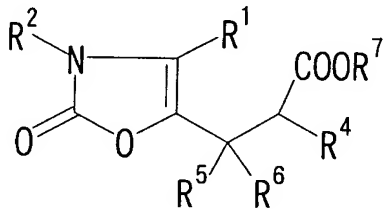
R^{20} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula



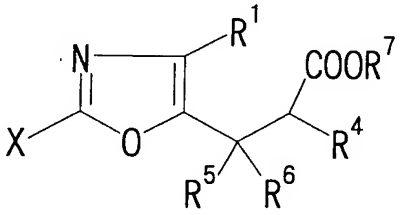
wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and the other symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula



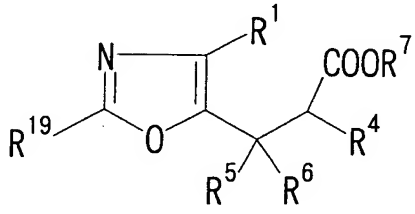
wherein R^7 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, in the presence of an acid or a base to give a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, subjecting this compound to halogenation reaction to give a compound represented by the formula

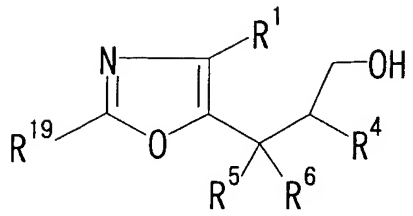


wherein X is a halogen atom, and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: R^{19}-H [R^{19} is as defined above] to give a compound represented by the formula

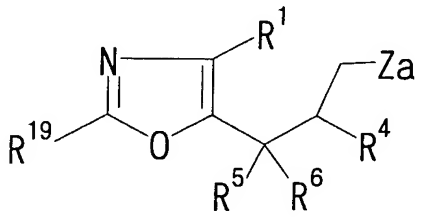


wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, subjecting this compound to a

reduction reaction to give a compound represented by the formula

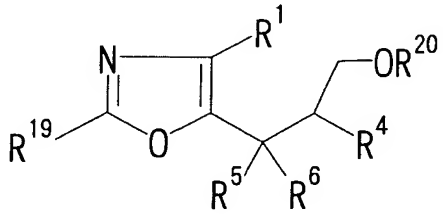


wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: $R^{10}SO_2Cl$ [R^{10} is an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group] or a halogenating agent to give a compound represented by the formula



wherein Za is a halogen atom or $-OSO_2R^{10}$ (R^{10} is as defined above), and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, and reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: R^{20}-OH [R^{20} is as defined above].

15. A method of producing a compound represented by the formula



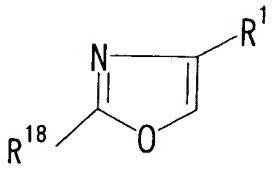
wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

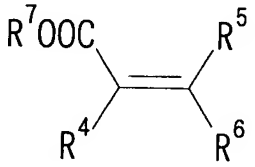
R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^{19} is an optionally substituted heterocyclic group containing nitrogen, which is bonded via a nitrogen atom, and

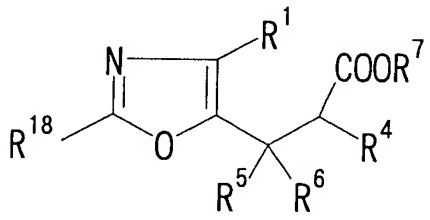
R^{20} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or a salt thereof, which method comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula



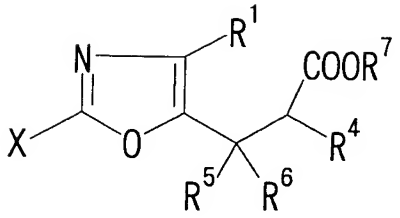
wherein R^{18} is an optionally substituted amino group and the other symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof with a compound represented by the formula



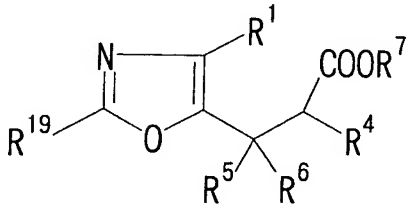
wherein R^7 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, in the presence of an acid to give a compound represented by the formula



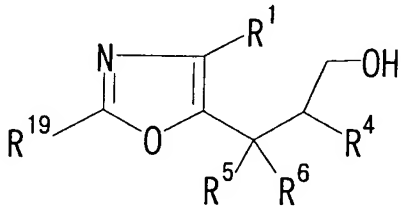
wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, subjecting this compound to halogenation reaction to give a compound represented by the formula



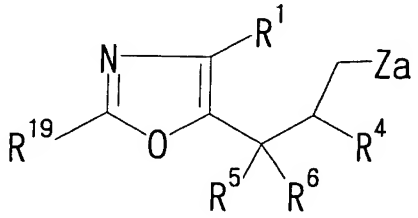
wherein X is a halogen atom, and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: R^{19}-H [R^{19} is as defined above] to give a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, subjecting this compound to a reduction reaction to give a compound represented by the formula



wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined above, or a salt thereof, reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: $R^{10}SO_2Cl$ [R^{10} is an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group] or a halogenating agent to give a compound represented by the formula



wherein Za is a halogen atom or $-OSO_2R^{10}$ (R^{10} is as defined above), and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, and reacting this compound with a compound represented by the formula: R^{20}-OH [R^{20} is as defined above].

16. Methyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-5-oxazolepropionate.